

LEADERS FOR DEMOCRACY FELLOWSHIPS

Three-month Program in the United States for Young Leaders

*Applications due by **November 19, 2011***

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce a fellowship opportunity offered by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), a program of the U.S. Department of State. Applications are now being accepted for candidates for the Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program, which will provide young leaders from the Middle East and North Africa with the opportunity to complete both academic coursework and professional experience in the United States in subjects including communication, leadership, and civil society. The fellowship will cover international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing, and a moderate living stipend.

The program is open to applicants between the ages of 25 and 40 with a bachelor's degree and the English-language fluency to function successfully in an American academic and professional environment. Applicants also should have five years of work experience, as well as leadership skills and the capacity to apply the opportunities presented by the fellowship in a way that would benefit an organization, sector, or specific community. This highly competitive program will run from **March 12, 2012, to June 01, 2012**. The application deadline is **November 19, 2011**. The applicants will be notified of their status by **December 9, 2011**. Fellows will travel to the United States unaccompanied.

Interested applicants should submit to the U.S. embassy in their home country no later than November 19 an updated resume **and** an essay of no more than 1000 words (written in English), which answers the following questions:

- How will a MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship enable you to better lead your community or country towards greater democracy and citizen participation in the institutions and activities of government?
- Specifically, what do you hope to gain from this program?
- What are your plans to apply the experience it offers?
- What changes do you hope to bring about in your country in the next 10 years?

Description of the Program

This program will begin with a six-week academic course on leadership and democracy at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University (<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/>) in upstate New York. The Maxwell School is ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as the best graduate school in the United States for

public affairs. Fellows will complete relevant seminars and workshops in topics including leadership, democratic transitions around the globe, comparative politics, civil society, communications, conflict resolution, and change management.

After completing the academic portion of the program, participants will engage in a six-week fellowship with a political, non-governmental, or public policy organization of professional interest in Washington, DC. Through this component of the program, participants will gain practical experience about the ways that such institutions interact with government and civil society while also gaining valuable knowledge, experience, skills and further professional contacts to benefit their respective professional pursuits back home.

Submitting Applications

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply to the point of contact listed below at the U.S. embassy in their home country. Applicants who are subject to J-1 visa restrictions, who are employed by the U.S. Government, or who are the spouse or child of a U.S. Government employee will not be considered for this program. Applicants will be informed of the status of their applications by December 9, 2011.

In Oman, please submit your application and direct further inquiries by email, with the subject line "MEPI LDF application – (Your Name)" to:

MEPI Coordinator MEPIOmanLDF@state.gov

Please submit a current CV with your application and essay questions by email.

Background on the Middle East Partnership Initiative

MEPI was launched in 2002 to support cooperative efforts in the region that promote quality education, economic progress, strengthening institutions of governance and women's development in the Middle East. Since then, it has devoted more than \$530 million to more than 600 programs that are implemented by non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, governments, and other partners in the region.